

A two-month extension of time is hereby requested so that the period for taking action now expires on June 30, 2004.

The removal of the various grounds of rejection under the second paragraph of Section 112 is acknowledged with appreciation.

Entry of this Amendment is requested since it should either place the present invention in condition for allowance or in better form for Appeal.

Basis for reciting the coating of a reconstituted wood substrate appears at page 1, lines 10-12 of the present application. The definition of a reconstituted wood substrate and examples of such a substrate are presented at page 1, line 15 to page 2, line 2. Page 3, lines 28-29 provides basis for the recitation of an aqueous colloidal dispersion.

Sheets describes a process in which an overlay paper that has been primed with a primer/sealer is laminated to a hardboard product. The primed paper is dried before it is applied to the hardboard. The current process involves the application of a press coating as a liquid coating to a reconstituted wood substrate. Hence, the process defined by the pending Claims is both novel and nonobvious over Sheets.

The process described by Sheets requires the preparation of resin-impregnated, adhesive-backed overlay paper that is then laminated. This process comprises a relatively large number of process steps. On the other hand, in the present process a press coating is directly applied to a reconstituted wood substrate. This requires a fewer number of process steps and is not suggested by the Sheets patent.

For the foregoing reasons, the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 6 should be removed.

In addition, it is requested that the rejection of Claims 4 and 5 be removed since the secondary art of Cooley (U.S. Patent No. 4,587,141) fails to cure the clear deficiencies of Sheets that have been previously provided in showing the general outlines of the claimed invention.

Allowance of all pending Claims is again solicited in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned for a further discussion of the claimed invention and the cited art if it is deemed helpful to advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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